



[K4GSous](https://www.k4gsous.com)

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



December 2022

President's Message

Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

Welcome to the holiday season! While we don't have a white Christmas to look forward to (hopefully!!), the lights and decorations show us we are deep into the season. Many of us are preparing for family visits, either here or after traveling to other locations. Either way, we can anticipate lots of food, joy, and fun! And if you've been good little boys and girls, maybe a new 'toy' to enjoy.

During breaks in the excitement, we can look back on a very productive year for the club. There are many reasons why, but here are a few. We grew to over 100 members! That can be attributed to your participation in our events, bringing friends in and an active testing program exposing new Hams to our club. Our first summer Tailgate was a success for us and our participants. Our Winter and annual Field Days were opportunities for us to operate and expose the club to the community. Our Hamfest was another success because of you! We also celebrated our club's 75th Anniversary by operating over 2 days at Perry Field.

One of my favorite aspects of our club is the expertise of our members and their willingness to share their knowledge. Our Operating Days have been very helpful to get questions answered, equipment configured and being exposed to different aspects of our hobby. If you need assistance or just want to learn something new, please let it be known so the right people can be available. Or just show up and talk about our great hobby.

This time of the year also brings us to a change of leadership. I've enjoyed my two-year tenure as president but now it's time for new ideas and new faces at the front of the room. :-) I appreciate your help and support and I'm excited to see how the new leadership takes us into the future.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

6:00 Party Setup

7:00 PM Meeting/Dinner

Program: Installation of Officers

[See details on Page 5](#)

Upcoming Events

VE Testing—January 10, GCH

Winter Field Day — January 28-29, PF

Silver Springs Radio Club Net

K4GSO Repeater, 146.610, PL 123

Mondays at 7:30 PM

SSRC Slate of Officers for 2023

President—Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY

Vice President—Adam Parker, NY5E

Secretary—Gray Moffet, KC3DWY

Treasurer—Tim Trombley, K8TAT

Directors

Carl Berry, KC5CMX

Andy Allen, NA4DA

Terry Strey, KN4FMH

Hamfest 2022

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Chairman

HAMFEST 2022:

Remember the good ole days of just last week? Yes, that week – Hamfest 2022! It has come and gone but not without some good results and some challenges. We were blessed that First Christian Church has allowed us to return for our fourth year there. It is a great venue with lots of inside and outside space.

Just days before the event, we were notified that two of our commercial vendors – Nightfire and Hamworld would not be able to attend. Well, that threw the proverbial monkey wrench into the works. What were we to do? Simple...we moved the two individual vendors from the Fellowship Hall into the Memorial Hall along with the CERT, MERT and Hospital Comm Teams. That filled up the room. Adam NY5E also ran three tables for an estate sale of a member who went SK earlier in the year.

Hamfest setup began Friday morning with the team arriving early to arrange tables, assist vendors in unloading their vans and trailers and organizing the room. Thanks to the great setup team of Bill KW5BG, Jim KN4MIV, Izzy KT4WA, Mel KG7LQQ, Mike W9MMC and Doug K4LOX, for their efficient and hard work. Carl KC5CMX arrived to check out the PA system and configure the electronic signs. Hayden setup the video displays. Roger K4ZFW and Gilbert K4GLG stopped by to give adult supervision and verbal support.

One thing we did differently this year was to feed the workers and the vendors, which has always proven to be a problem. Following lunch, the tailgate area was setup and cordoned off for the next morning.

Saturday morning found the tailgate team led by Bruce WA4IPU there by 5:30am with tailgaters beginning to arrive shortly thereafter.

Traffic patterns were changed this year to make parking safer and more organized. WarHorse Harley-Davidson generously loaned the club a dozen large traffic cones which helped in the traffic flow.

Assisting Bruce in tailgate parking were Doug K4LOX, Terry KN4FMH, John KQ4BFO, Ramona KN4NRZ and Allan KN4NSA. At the other end of the street, Rob W4FWK handled attendee parking directing them into the MTI lot. Roger, K4ZFW, worked the talk-in station and successfully vectored in several lost hams.

Memorial Hall workers and vendors started arriving by 6:00am to complete final setups. Doors opened for attendees at 7:30 and it was game on. Weeks before the event Ron KS4SW and BJ KN4HYZ handled the design and ordering of admission and raffle tickets and then organized the tailgate ticket packages. Ron and BJ also manned the admissions tables. The "Viola Team" has a system...so get out of the way...it just works! Others working in the Memorial Hall were Bill KW5BG, Tim K8TAT, Mike W9MNC, Mel KG7LQQ, Izzy KT4WA, Hayden, N2HAY and Carl KC5CMX as emcee.

Unfortunately, one more vendor, Paradan Radio, also failed to show on Saturday. That was another unexpected surprise. Despite the missing vendors, attendee traffic was steady throughout the day in

Pictures courtesy of KN4MIV & K4LOX



Continued on next page

the Memorial Hall and tailgate area. Scout Troop 439 was on hand again this year to sell ham food – coffee, donuts, hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and water.

VE testing led by Jim KN4MIV was conducted at 10:00am. Assisting him were Maurice N4LZ, Doug K4LOX, Roland KY4BD and Woody W3HII. Of special note, our incoming 2023 President, Hayden N2HAY, upgraded to General Class at the event. Congratulations Hayden!

Around 2:00pm, the attendee traffic had essentially stopped and the tailgaters had mostly packed up and left. It was time to call it a day. The vendors started packing up and by 4:00pm the room was cleared. A big thank you goes to the takedown team who worked tirelessly to get the vendors loaded and the room restored to its normal clean state. Those working takedown were Bill KW5BG, Jim KN4MIV, John KQ4BFO, Kirk W4CJ, Izzy KT4WA, Tim K8TAT and Terry KN4FMH.

Overall, it was a good event with lots of attendees and tailgaters although our totals were a little off from last year. We had 29 members volunteer in one or several capacities for the event, which is remarkable. If I have omitted anyone who worked the event...please accept my apologies. Again, thanks to everyone who helped make this a fun Hamfest this year. More results will follow at the December General meeting.

PS...mark your calendar for Hamfest 2023 on December 1 and 2 at FCC. Signup page will appear on the club website in early 2023.



Continued on next page



Membership

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K, Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP:

Once again the club continues to grow with more members just about every month. We are pleased to welcome our newest member who was approved at the November General Meeting:

Mark A. Rubacha, KO4QMI, Technician

We have one pending application for the December meeting. This will bring our active membership up to 104 of whom 101 are licensed and three associate members.

If you know of other hams who are not in a club but are interested in joining, please invite them to a meeting, an operating day or maybe even a POTA activation. Encourage the technicians to upgrade to at least General so that they can enjoy the full benefits and privileges of their licenses. There is an online application and a link to a paper application on the K4GSO.us website.

PASSING THE TORCH:

Over the last few years, I have been tasked to plan, organize and lead a number of club events – Membership, Winter Field Day, Marion County Day, Summer Tailgate, Field Day, North Central Florida Outdoor Expo, Hamfest and others. With new officers and a new board now assuming leadership roles in club, it is time for me to step back and let others take up leading these events. Our club is blessed by its abundance of many talented folks from all backgrounds and various levels of technical expertise who could take on an event or two. There are plenty of opportunities to lead an event and it is fun. You would not have to start from scratch because I will gladly share event work files to ease the transitions. There are probably some other events that we are missing where we could promote the club! One does not need to be an officer or director to lead an event – and it is not hard. Please support your new leadership team by volunteering to head up an event.



Silver Springs Radio Club Holiday Party

December 20, 2022

6:00 PM Party Setup & Socializing

7 PM Dinner

Green Clover Hall

319 SE 26th Terrace, Ocala

Plan to attend with your spouse or guest.

New This Year! SSRC will provide Turkey and Ham!

As well as: Soft Drinks, Water, Coffee, Paper Products, and Utensils.

Please bring a dish of your choosing, serving 6-8, to share.

Extra folding chairs will be appreciated.

If you need more information, contact Marty N4GL

n4gl.marty@gmail.com

VE Test Report from Hamfest

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV, SSRC VP, Test Liaison

During our Hamfest VE Test Session, we had five people test with 2 passing the test. Upgrading to General was Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY and upgrading to Technician was Bryan Studer, KQ4EXN.

I want to thank the VE's that volunteered their time to work the test session. Maurice, N4LZ; Doug K4LOX; Roland, KY4BD and Woody, W3HII.

For the year we had 45 applicants test for a new/upgraded license. Of those testing 32 passed at least one test for 71% pass rate.

Congratulations to Maurice (N4LZ) for completing his 100th test session!

Here are the ARRL Session Counts for our members through December 2022:

N4LZ(Maurice Schietecatte) - 100; **KC5CMX**(Carl Berry) - 57; **W9MNC**(Michael Condon) - 48; **W3HII**(Harold Wood) - 41; **KS4SW**(Ronald Viola) - 40; **KQ3K**(Elbert Wilkinson) - 31; **KN4MIV**(James Burgess) - 26; **KW5BG**(Bill Gillespie) - 12; **KK4MYM** (Jan Fletcher) - 9; **KY4BD** (Roland Wakefield) - 7; **KM4VCZ** (Bobby Gordon) - 6; **KN4BD**(Robert McRae) - 6; **K4LOX** (Doug Taylor) - 6; **KO4OIG**(Kim Umbaugh) - 2; **NY5E**(Adam Parker) - 0; **KB1MUN** Lenny Doucette - 0

Since we have an abundance of VE's, I'm going to be setting up a rotation so everyone gets to participate. And more importantly not putting the test candidates in an intimidating situation of having maybe eight or more VE's and maybe only two test candidates.



Marion County Traffic Net

Gray Moffett, KC3DWY

ARES Net Manager

Welcome to the home of the Marion County Traffic Net. The MCTN is the local affiliate of and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League's National Traffic System. The primary function of the MCTN is to handle formal Radiogram message traffic as part of the NTS. We encourage you to visit the NTS website for training materials and other resources



<http://www.arrl.org/NTS>

The MCTN meets Monday 8:00 PM on the 146.330(-) repeater, PL tone 123. We encourage everyone, with or without traffic, to check in. If you need assistance or have questions about anything we do on the MCTN, or if you have any interest in becoming a member of the MCTN staff, please contact the Net Manager.

Net Statistics—November 2022

Net Statistics

QNI 11 (Total Check-Ins)

QTC 5 (Total Messages)

QND 69 (Total Minutes)

Total Sessions 3



TVARC Holds General Class Course

Brad Castelli, KN9B

The Villages Amateur Radio Club is holding a free in person General license course. Class will meet once a week for seven weeks followed by an ARRL/VE License Exam on Monday February 27th. The course is free and open to the public. Amateur General Licensing Course on Monday evenings, Jan. 9 - Feb. 27, 2023 in The Villages, Florida. More class details and study resources are listed on the club website; www.K4VRC.com ("Interested in becoming a ham" tab). You are encouraged to get your friends to sign-up too, so you can study together.

Info: kn9b@arrl.net

HamCation Needs You!!

Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman



The largest hamfest in the southeast US, 2nd largest in the world, needs your help!

HamCation is managed and operated by volunteers. Without volunteers, HamCation would not be able to happen each year. It takes hundreds of volunteers each year to help run HamCation and 2023 is no exception.

For more information to include a description of each volunteer position needed and its duties and to sign up go to: [HamCation Volunteer](#). Be sure to read the directions as each volunteer needs to submit the form and we asked that only one area is selected each day. If you want to volunteer in more than one area in a day, please submit a form for each position. You will then be contacted by the Chairman of the area you volunteer for to create a schedule based on your availability and our needs.

A Holiday Reality Check from: KC5CMX

How many radios should a normal ham have?
Oh, about five.

That sounds like a ham "enthusiast" to me...
No, an enthusiast has fifteen.

That sounds like someone obsessed with ham radio.
Nope, someone obsessed with ham radio has dozens.

That sounds a bit like a psycho.
No, psychos seldom own ham radios -
or they might just have one, maybe two at most.

But that sounds like a normal person.
No, a normal ham has about five.
We already covered that.

2022 SSRC Officers

[President - Bill Gillespie, KW5BG](#)
[Vice President - Jim Burgess, KN4MIV](#)
[Secretary - Gray Moffett, KC3DWY](#)
[Treasurer - Tim Trombley, K8TAT](#)
[Past President - Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)

Directors:

[Mike Condon - W9MNC](#)
[Wayne Brown - N4FP](#)
[Hayden Kaufman - N2HAY](#)

[Club Minutes and Financial Reports](#)

SSRC Board of Directors, first Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Green Clover Hall

SSRC Board Meets at 7 :00 PM, First Tuesday, GCH
All are welcome

SSRC Information

[SSRC Logo Shirts & Caps](#)
[Green Clover Key Card](#)
[Perry Field Access](#)
[Membership Application](#)
[Buy/Sell/Trade](#)
[QST NFL](#) – NFL Section Newsletter
[Silver Springs Radio Club Website](#)
[NFL Section Website](#)
[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)
[NG3K DX](#)

Committee Chairs

[Membership & Events – Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K](#)
[Trustee K4GSO – Wayne Brown, N4FP](#)
[Newsletter – Marty Brown, N4GL](#)